

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-26 (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) A method of providing an identification of a group associated with a calling party to a called party, the method comprising:

(a) receiving a dialed number associated with a called party from a calling party, the calling party being associated with a calling party identification number;

(b) modifying the calling party identification number to ~~an~~ a calling party identification number of a group associated with the calling party; and

(c) in response to a privacy indicator, restricting a passing of the calling party identification number of the group associated with the calling party ~~modified calling party identification number to the called party.~~

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 further comprising receiving a service-specific code from the calling party.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 further comprising receiving a vertical-service code from the calling party.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 further comprising receiving an access code from the calling party.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 further comprising receiving a personal identification number from the calling party.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, further comprising sending a query to a service control point, the query comprising the calling party identification number.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein (b) is performed by the service control point.

Claim 34 (Cancelled)

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27 wherein (c) ~~wherein (c) is performed if a privacy indicator is not received~~ comprises: in response to the privacy indicator, restricting the passing of the calling party identification number of the group associated with the calling party; otherwise, if the privacy indicator is not present, passing the calling party identification number of the group associated with the calling party.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the dialed number comprises a private virtual network number.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 further comprising translating the dialed number to a called party identification number.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 further comprising determining a telecommunication carrier for the group associated with the calling party.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38 further comprising routing a call from the calling party to the called party via the telecommunication carrier for the group associated with the calling party.

Claim 40 (Cancelled)

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 60 further comprising creating a billing record based upon the modified billing identification number.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 60, wherein the billing identification number comprises an ANI number.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 further comprising providing a signal to the called party to indicate that an incoming call is associated with the group associated with the calling party.

44. (Currently Amended) A system for providing an identification of a group associated with a calling party to a called party, the system comprising:

means for receiving a dialed number associated with a called party from a calling party, the calling party being associated with a calling party identification number;

means for modifying the calling party identification number to ~~an~~ a calling party identification number of a group associated with the calling party; and

means for, in response to a privacy indicator, restricting a passing of the calling party identification number of the group associated with the calling party ~~modified-calling party~~ ~~identification number to the called party.~~

45. (Currently Amended) A system for providing an identification of a group associated with a calling party to a called party, the system comprising:

a service control point operative to modify a calling party identification number to ~~an~~ a calling party identification number of a group associated with a calling party in response to a query; and

a signal switching point coupled with the service control point, the signal switching point being operative to send the query to the service control point;

wherein the service control point is further operative to, in response to a privacy indicator, restrict a passing of the calling party identification number of the group associated with the calling party ~~pass the modified-calling party identification number to the called party.~~

46. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 45, wherein the signal switching point is further operative to send the query in response to receiving a service-specific code.

47. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 45, wherein the signal switching point is further operative to send the query in response to receiving a vertical-service code.

48. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 45, wherein the signal switching point is further operative to send the query in response to receiving an access code.

49. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 45, wherein the signal switching point is further operative to send the query in response to receiving a personal identification number.

Claim 50 (Cancelled)

51. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 45, wherein the service control point is further operative to, in response to a privacy indicator, restrict a passing of the calling party identification number of the group associated with the calling party; otherwise, if the privacy indicator is not present, pass the calling party identification number of the group associated with the calling party ~~pass the modified calling party identification number to the called party if a privacy indicator is not received.~~

Claim 52 (Cancelled)

53. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 61, wherein the service control point is further operative to create a billing record based upon the modified billing identification number.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 61, wherein the billing identification number comprises an ANI number.

55. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 45, wherein the service control point is further operative to provide a signal to the called party to indicate that an incoming call is associated with the group associated with the calling party.

56. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 45, wherein the service control point is further operative to translate a dialed number to a called party identification number.

57. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 56, wherein the dialed number comprises a private virtual network number.

58. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 45, wherein the service control point is further operative to determine a telecommunication carrier for the group associated with the calling party.

59. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 58, wherein the service control point is further operative to route a call from the calling party to the called party via the telecommunication carrier for the group associated with the calling party.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 further comprising modifying a billing identification number of the calling party to a billing identification number of the group associated with the calling party.

61. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 45, wherein the service control point is further operative to modify a billing identification number of the calling party to a billing identification number of the group associated with the calling party.

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the group comprises a business, and wherein the calling party comprises an employee of the business.

63. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 44, wherein the group comprises a business, and wherein the calling party comprises an employee of the business.

64. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 45, wherein the group comprises a business, and wherein the calling party comprises an employee of the business.

65. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27, wherein the calling party identification number comprises the calling party's ANI, and wherein the calling party identification number of the group associated with the calling party comprises the group's ANI.

66. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 44, wherein the calling party identification number comprises the calling party's ANI, and wherein the calling party identification number of the group associated with the calling party comprises the group's ANI.

67. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 45, wherein the calling party identification number comprises the calling party's ANI, and wherein the calling party identification number of the group associated with the calling party comprises the group's ANI.

68. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 35, wherein the privacy indicator comprises a privacy access indicator.

69. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 35, wherein the privacy indicator comprises a per-line blocking indicator.

70. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 51, wherein the privacy indicator comprises a privacy access indicator.

71. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 51, wherein the privacy indicator comprises a per-line blocking indicator.